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A NOTE ON *Paradise Lost*, 1, 351-5.

To the Editors of *Mod. Lang. Notes*.

SIRS:—In the passage of which the lines in question are a part, Milton has been describing the followers of Satan as they rise from off the burning lake, and then he says of them, beginning with line 351 :

A multitude like which the *populous* North
 Poured never from her frozen loins to pass
 Rhene or the Danaw, when her barbarous sons
 Came like a deluge on the South, and spread
 Beneath Gibraltar to the Libyan sands.

The commentators from Todd to Mr. Verity agree that this is a reference to the Teutonic invasions of Southern Europe ; but they quote no early authorities for the epithet *populous*. Is it absurd to ask if Milton may not have had in mind passages like the following : Habet quoque ipse inmensus pelagus in parte arctoa, id est septentrionali, amplam insulam nomine Scandzam, unde nobis sermo, si dominus iuvaverit, est adsumendus, quia gens, cuius originem flagitas, *ab huius insulae gremio velut examen apium erumpens*, in terram Europæ advenit. Jordanis, *De Origine Actibusque Getarum*, 1. Septentrionalis plaga quanto magis ab æstu solis remota est et *nivali frigore gelida*, tanto salubrior corporibus hominum et propagandis est gentibus coaptata ; sicut econtra omnis meridiana regio, quo solis est fervori vicinior, eo semper morbis habundat et educandis minus est apta mortalibus. Unde fit, ut tantæ *populorum multitudines* arctoo sub axe oriantur, ut non inmerito universa illa regio Tanai tenus usque ad occiduum, licet et propriis loca in ea singula nuncupentur nominibus, generali tamen vocabulo Germania vocitetur ; Ab hac ergo *populosa* Germania sæpe innumerabiles captivorum turmæ abductæ meridianis populis pretio distrahuntur. Multæ quoque ex ea, pro eo quod tantos mortalium *germinat*, quantos alere vix sufficit, sæpe gentes egressæ sunt, quæ nihilominus et partes Asiæ, sed maxime sibi contiguam Europam adflixerunt. Testantur hoc ubique urbes erutæ per totam Illiricum Galliamque, sed maxime miseræ Italiæ, quæ pene omnium illarum est gentium experta sævitiam. Paulus Diaconus, *Historia Langobardorum* 1. 1. (Attention is called especially to the expressions in italics.)

Todd, quoting Newton, says that Sir William Temple called Germany *the Northern hive*. Waitz in the *Monumenta* edition of Paulus cites Isidore of Seville, *Etymologies*, xiv, 4. 4, where the name *Germania* is derived from *germinare*.

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A CORRECTION.

To the Editors of *Mod. Lang. Notes*.

SIRS :—My suggestion, *MLN.*, xxiv, 10, that certain lines of Alexander Barclay refer to Boccaccio, is quite wrong. They refer to the contest between 'Alithia' and 'Pseustis,' in the *Ecloga Theoduli*. See Professor Skeat's note, *Athenæum*, Mar. 1, 1902.

WILFRED P. MUSTARD.

Jan. 20, 1909.

BRIEF MENTION.

OLD PORTUGUESE TEXTS.

Textos Archaicos para uso da aula de philologia portuguesa estabelecida na Bibliotheca Nacional de Lisboa por portaria de 31 de Dezembro de 1903, coordenados, anotados e providos de um glossario pelo Dr. J. LEITE DE VASCONCELLOS. 2ª edição (ampliada). Lisboa : A. M. Teixeira e C^{ia} ; 1908. 8vo., 160 pp.

In this book the well-known scholar, and editor of the *Revista Lusitana*, publishes a series of Portuguese texts ranging from the earliest Latin-Portuguese legal documents to selections of lyric poetry of the sixteenth century, and including a chapter on Galician legal prose of XIII-XIV centuries. The critical apparatus embraces an all too brief summary of the salient features of Old-Portuguese phonology, morphology and syntax ; an "historia externa do idioma gallego" ; vocabulary of both common and proper nouns, in which the Latin, Portuguese and Galician forms are conveniently differentiated by means of different types. This scholarly little book is a valuable manual for the beginner in Old Portuguese, and contains, furthermore, a mass of important and suggestive material for the mature worker in Romance philology.